

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT No. 2**

DATE: October 19, 2003

SUBJECT: Plains-Sandy Creek Crude Oil Spill
Kingston, Adams County, Mississippi

FROM: Rick Jardine, PE, OSC
USEPA Region 4

TO: S. Hitchcock, EPA
D. Rigger, EPA
Region 4, RRC
MSDEQ
USCG NPFC

I. BACKGROUND

LEAD AGENCY:	EPA, Region 4, ERRB 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303
NPL:	No
FUNDING:	OPA
FPN#	E04401
LEAD OSC:	Rick Jardine
SITE ID:	Z4FV

II SITUATION

Date of Notification:	October 13, 2003
Date Action Started:	October 14, 2003
Pollutant:	Crude Oil
Source Identification:	4 inch pipeline

III ACTIONS TAKEN

On 13 OCT 03 Plains All American Pipeline, LP (Plains) experienced a pressure drop in their piping network near the Sandy Creek Wildlife Management Area in Adams County, Mississippi. Plains personnel shut down pumps and closed associated valves. On 14 OCT 03 Plains identified a discharge to the waters of the U.S., confirmed notification to the NRC, and dispatched internal and contract response personnel. MSDEQ SOSCs were rapidly on Scene to oversight and direct response activity. EPA OSC Jardine was dispatched from Atlanta to also oversight and direct response activity. Responders installed boom and an

underflow dam approximately eight miles down stream from the pipe break. A significant amount of oil had already passed the underflow dam location and entered the Homochitto River. An undetermined amount of oil had entered the Mississippi River. MSDEQ directed response personnel to install hard boom in the Homochitto beneath the Highway 61 bridge that is approximately 15 - 20 miles down stream from the break. Due in part to the strong current of the Homochitto, MSDEQ SOSC supplemented this containment area by contracting for additional boom to be installed after consulting with the OSC.

The surface water pathway for this discharge is serpentine, difficult, remote, and access was extremely restricted. Plains gained access to the waterway from several private parties and the U.S. Forest Service for their respective properties. Responders cut access roads as required to get equipment and materials to the spill. Oil has pooled all along the pathway. Vacuum trucks have only been able to reach five locations along the over 15 miles of water. Despite this hindrance, over 200 barrels of oil have been recovered and returned to oil storage tanks. More oil has been recovered by adsorption to booms, pads, snares, and oiled debris. Plains has mobilized approximately 100 persons, numerous vacuum trucks, roll-off boxes, heavy equipment, air boats, john boats, ATVs, a fixed-wing aircraft, a helicopter, pumps, boom, and miscellaneous response gear and materials.

Wildlife has been impacted, and continues to be, as significant oil remains to be removed from the waters and adjacent shoreline. An oiled snowy egret and king fisher have been recovered and rehabilitated and an oiled alligator was observed in the Homochitto River. Fresh oily racoon tracks were observed along the bank of Sandy Creek six days into the spill response.

IV FUTURE ACTIONS

EPA and MSDEQ continue to oversight and assess progress of the response. Plains is continuing all response activity. Plains intends to return viable product to their transportation system and is profiling oiled debris for disposal.

V ESTIMATED COSTS

EPA - \$3,000